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CONTENTS FOR DECEMBER 1934

EDITORIAL NOTES ARTICLES

Scottish National Conference on The Place of Biology in Education
Biology and Mankind

Biology Applied to Human Problems

Professor F. A. E. Crew

The Cultural Value of Biology

Professor J. Graham Kerr

The Biological Factor in Social Problems

S. Neville-Rolfe

Training for Children in Institutions with special reference to Sex
Education

Absence of Sex Instruction as a Factor in Sex Delinquency

S. Neville-Rolfe

Social Hygiene Education for the Institution Child

M. A. Payne

The Need for a Family Background in an Institution

S. S. Snell

Helping the Child's Outlook on Sex

V. D. Swaisland and A. H. Macdonald

Social Hygiene Education in Juvenile Instruction Centres

The New Unemployment Act

R. H. Turton

Junior Instruction Centres and their Activities

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tive, and Dr. Penrose estimates that approximately a quarter of the inmates of the Royal Institution, Colchester, come from sub-cultural families. On the improbable assumption, therefore, that none of the remaining defectives who fall outside the sub-cultural group (three-quarters of the inmates of the Royal Institution) had a mentally defective parent, the minimum reduction attainable by preventing the parenthood a generation ago of all certifiable defectives in the community would be a quarter of 28 per cent., i.e. 7 per cent. But it must be remembered that the proportion of sub-cultural and other types of defectives in the Royal Institution at Colchester is much smaller than that which obtains on an average in the general community—this for the reason that lower grades of defectives tend to find their way into institutions, and are found there in larger numbers than in the general community.

The conclusion which may tentatively be drawn from the very careful investigations above referred to is that, if the parents of defectives are closely scrutinized, it will be found that more than 5 per cent. are born of parents one or both of whom are mental defectives; and that the principle of sterilization, if limited to mental defectives, but applied to them in the most thorough-going

way, would have more appreciable eugenic results than has been suggested by some authorities.

In conclusion, however, it must be clearly recognized that the type of sterilization recommended by the Brock Committee is strictly voluntary and that, to begin with, at any rate, only a small proportion of defectives for whom it might be regarded as appropriate would apply to be sterilized. It would, therefore, be idle to expect appreciable results from legalizing a measure of voluntary sterilization *limited to mental defectives*. From the eugenic standpoint the chief value of the recommendations of the Brock Committee are that they advocate voluntary sterilization for the probable carriers of mental defectiveness, i.e., for the types of person who, in this country, would be regarded as retarded normals and who, in Denmark, would be regarded as debile persons or dullards. In this connection the shocking family history quoted on page 87 of the Brock Report is interesting. In this family 17 children had been born, of whom 12 were living. Of these 12 living children, 8 were defective. *But neither the father nor the mother of this family was defective.* They were carriers of defectiveness, that is retarded normals.



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sufficient numbers of volunteers for sterilization would be forthcoming to allow of a useful scientific investigation of the results if (1) their sterilization law had been on a voluntary basis originally or (2) were made voluntary now.

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operations whereas California, having administered as a voluntary measure a law which read as entirely compulsory, authorizing the operation only on patients who had signed an application for it, had its well-known high record of sterilizations for eugenic purposes. The administrators of the German law, whom she herself had met, had an infectious enthusiasm for the racial value of sterilization and proclaimed as heroes of the Fatherland those who volunteered for the operation or freely consented to it. Where they succeed in carrying public opinion with them the grave difficulties created by a compulsory system would not be likely to arise.



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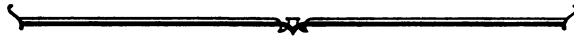
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* Pitt-Rivers, *Weeds in the Garden of Marriage*, pp. 73-4.



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